

Conservation On the Ground - Colbert County Celebrates Farm-City Week



"Focus on Family Farms" was the theme for the 2002 Alabama Farm-City Week observation. The majority of Alabama farms are still operated by families—a husband and wife, and other family members such as brothers and sisters or their children. Many Alabama residents can trace their roots back to agriculture. A century ago, most people in Alabama made their living on a farm. While the number of farmers has decreased dramatically during the past 100 years, agriculture is still vital to the state's economy. Farm-City serves as a reminder of how important agriculture is to Alabama.



The children enjoyed seeing Byron Aycock's collection of miniature farm equipment.



Kathy Gotcher discussed recycling options with the students. They were fascinated with the worm composting bin.

Colbert County USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service participated in the Farm-City celebration held at the North Alabama State Fairgrounds in Muscle Shoals on November 21. To acquaint the children with various farm implements, Byron Aycock, Soil Conservation Technician, displayed his collection of farm equipment. Kathy Gotcher, District Conservationist, created an exhibit that featured recycling. A worm composting bins was a concept that attracted the children's attention.

Approximately 450 students participated in the activities of the day.

Farm-City activities serve as a reminder that agriculture reaches far beyond the farm gate. While farmers produce food and fiber, agribusiness industries account for many non-farm job opportunities in the state. Those jobs include farm equipment dealers, seed and feed suppliers, agricultural journalism, and food processors.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.